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12 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
13 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

14 In re:

15 USA COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE
16 COMPANY,

17 Debtor.

18 Case No. BK-S-06-10725-LBR

19 Chapter 11

20 **EIGHTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION
21 OF USACM TRUST TO PROOFS OF
22 CLAIM BASED IN WHOLE OR IN
23 PART UPON INVESTMENT IN DEL
24 VALLE LIVINGSTON LOAN**

25 **Date of Hearing: July 26, 2011**
26 **Time of Hearing: 1:30 p.m.**
27 **Estimated Time for hearing: 10 min.**

28 The USACM Liquidating Trust (the “USACM Trust”) moves this Court, pursuant
29 to § 502 of title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) and
30 Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), for an
31 order disallowing in whole or in part the Proofs of Claim listed in **Exhibit A**. These
32 claims were filed by investors (“Direct Lenders”) against USA Commercial Mortgage
33 Company (“USACM”) based in whole or in part upon an investment in a loan to Del Valle
34 Capital Corporation, Inc. (“Borrower”). This loan will be referred to as the DVL Loan.
35 This Objection is supported by the Court’s record and the Declarations of Geoffrey L.
36 Berman and Edward M. Burr in Support of Omnibus Objections to Proofs of Claim Based
37 Upon the Investment in the DVL Loan. (the “Berman Decl.” and “Burr Decl.”).

1 THIS OBJECTION DOES NOT RELATE TO AND WILL NOT IMPACT THE
2 DIRECT LENDERS' RIGHTS TO REPAYMENT ON THE DVL LOAN OR TO
3 SHARE IN ANY PROCEEDS GENERATED FROM THE SALE OF THE REAL
4 PROPERTY SECURING THE DVL LOAN OR SHARE IN THE RECOVERY OF ANY
5 FUNDS FROM THE GUARANTOR OF THE LOAN.

6 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

7 **I. BACKGROUND FACTS**

8 **a. The USACM Bankruptcy**

9 On April 13, 2006 ("Petition Date"), USACM filed a voluntary petition for relief
10 under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtor continued to operate its business as
11 debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
12 Debtor's post-petition management of the Debtor was under the direction of Thomas J.
13 Allison of Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC, who served as the Chief
14 Restructuring Officer.

15 USACM was a Nevada corporation that, prior to the Petition Date, was in the
16 business of underwriting, originating, brokering, funding and servicing commercial loans
17 primarily secured by real estate, both on behalf of investors and for its own account. That
18 business included the solicitation of investors to purchase fractional interest in loans that
19 USACM originated and then serviced. These investors are referred to as "Direct Lenders"
20 in USACM's bankruptcy case and in this Objection.

21 On January 8, 2007, this Court entered its Order Confirming the "Debtors' Third
22 Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization" as Modified Herein [Docket No.
23 2376]. As part of the Plan, and pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement filed with this
24 Court, USACM sold the servicing rights to most of the loans it serviced to Compass
25 Partners, LLC and Compass Financial Partners, LLC ("Compass"), including the DVL
26 Loan. The sale to Compass closed on February 16, 2007.

1 The USACM Trust exists as of the Effective Date of the Plan, which was March 12,
2 2007. Geoffrey L. Berman is the Trustee. Under the Plan, the USACM Trust is the
3 successor to USACM with respect to standing to seek allowance and disallowance of
4 Claims under 11 U.S.C. § 502(a).

5 Upon information derived from filings in the United States District Court, District
6 of Nevada, *3685 San Fernando Lenders Company, LLC, et al v. Compass USA SPE, LLC,*
7 *et al*, No. 2:07-cv-00892-RCJ-GWF action, the Trust believes that Silar Advisors, LP
8 (“Silar”) financed Compass’ acquisition of the Purchased Assets, including the loan
9 service agreements in the USACM bankruptcy case and took a secured interest in those
10 Purchased Assets by executing a Master Repurchase Agreement (“Repurchase
11 Agreement”) with Compass, and by filing a UCC-1 financing statement with the State of
12 Delaware.” *Id.* Docket 1250 at 13-14 (citations to declarations omitted).

13 Further, from filings in the same action, the Trust believes that “Effective as of
14 September 26, 2007, Silar foreclosed on Compass through Asset Resolution LLC (“Asset
15 Resolution”) and took ownership of the Purchased Assets. ... Silar created Asset
16 Resolution as a ‘single purpose entity,’ conveyed all of its interests in the Repurchase
17 Agreement to Asset Resolution, and Asset Resolution properly foreclosed on the assets of
18 Compass, including the Purchased Assets.” (Citations omitted.) Asset Resolution LLC is
19 now a debtor in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case pending in Nevada, case no. BK-S-09-32824-
20 RCJ, along with certain affiliates.¹ William A. Leonard, Jr. was appointed trustee in the
21 Asset Resolution case.

22 The Trust has attempted to monitor loan collections through monitoring the district
23 court litigation and the ARC bankruptcy case, but has received limited information
24

25

¹ 10 90 SPE LLC, Fiesta Stoneridge LLC, CFP Gramercy SPE LLC, Bundy 2.5 Million SPE LLC, CFP
26 Cornman Toltec SPE LLC, Bundy Five Million LLC, Fox Hills SPE LLC, HFAH Monaco SPE LLC,
Huntsville SPE LLC, Lake Helen Partners SPE LLC, Ocean Atlantic SPE LLC, CFP, Gess SPE LLC, CFP
DVL SPE LLC, and Shamrock SPE LLC.

1 concerning servicing and resolution of direct loans by Compass/Silar/Asset Resolution or
2 their successors, including the trustee in bankruptcy for Asset Resolution. By Order
3 entered on June 24, 2010 by the Hon. Robert C. Jones in United States Bankruptcy Court
4 (Case No. BK-S-09-32824-RCJ), the servicing rights for 19 loans were transferred to
5 Cross, FLS. The DVL Loan servicing rights were transferred to Cross, FLS by that Order.
6 The Trust has been in contact with Cross, FLS with regard to the status of the DVL Loan.

7 The following is the extent of the USACM Trust's information on the current
8 servicing and status of the DVL Loan.

9 **b. The DVL Loan**

10 USACM circulated an Offer Sheet to prospective Direct Lenders soliciting funding
11 for an acquisition and development loan to a borrower identified as "Del Valle Capital
12 Corporation, Inc." A copy of the Offer Sheet is attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and
13 incorporated by this reference. (Berman Decl., ¶ 4.) The total loan amount proposed was
14 \$19,250,000. The Offer Sheet described the investment as a "First Trust Deed
15 Investment" and noted that the investment would be secured by a first deed of trust on
16 approximately 143.6 acres with 38.2 acres zones for medium density residential housing in
17 Livingston, California. The Offer Sheet indicates that the loan was intended for Borrower
18 to acquire the raw real estate. The Offer Sheet indicated that the combined loan to value
19 ratio would be 63% based on a February 6, 2006 appraisal by Sierra Valuation
20 Consultants, and 57% based on purchase and sales contracts with Richmond Homes and
21 Meritage Homes.

22 On August 25, 2005, Borrower made and delivered to various lenders, including the
23 Direct Lenders identified in **Exhibit A**, a "Promissory Note Secured by Deed of Trust"
24 (the "Note") and a Loan Agreement. (Berman Decl., ¶ 5.) The Note and Loan Agreement
25 provided for a loan amount of \$18,000,000, which could be increased to \$19,250,000.
26 (Berman Decl., ¶ 6.) The Note was secured by a "Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents,

1 Security Agreement and Fixture Filing" ("Deed of Trust") that was recorded in the official
2 records of Merced County, California on September 8, 2005, along with subsequent
3 amendments thereto that secured the later loan advances that increased the principal
4 amount due to the maximum \$19,250,000. (Berman Decl., ¶ 6.) The Note was also
5 supported by an August 25, 2005 Guaranty signed by Scott Myers. (Berman Decl., ¶ 7.)

6 The USACM "Loan Summary" dated July 31, 2006 and filed in this case shows
7 that Borrower was "Non-performing" on the Note as of July 31, 2006. (Berman Decl., ¶
8.) During this bankruptcy case through the transfer of servicing to Compass, USACM
9 treated the Direct Lenders with respect to any interim payments by the borrower in
10 accordance with this Court's orders.

11 Counsel for the Trustee had a brief conversation with a representative of Cross,
12 FLS regarding the status of the DVL Loan. According to Cross, FLS, the Borrower still
13 owns the property, and the Direct Lenders are planning to foreclose and will thereafter try
14 to sell the property. The guarantor, Scott Meyers, cannot be located and is believed to be
15 out of the country.

16 **c. The DVL Claims**

17 **Exhibit A**, attached, lists Proofs of Claim filed by Direct Lenders that appear to be
18 based in whole or in part upon an investment in the DVL Loan. (Burr Decl., ¶ 7.)
19 **Exhibit A** identifies the Proof of Claim number, the claimant, the claimant's address, the
20 total amount of the claim and the total amount of the claim that appears to be related to an
21 investment in the DVL Loan based upon the information provided by the claimant. The
22 claims listed in **Exhibit A** are referred to hereafter as the "DVL Claims." As required by
23 Nevada LR 3007, a copy of the first page of the proof of claim for each of the claims
24 referenced in **Exhibit A** are attached as **Exhibit C**.

1 **II. JURISDICTION**

2 The Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and
3 157. Venue is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core
4 proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

5 The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. § 502 and
6 Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

7 **III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY**

8 Under the Bankruptcy Code, any Claim for which a proof of claim has been filed
9 will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof
10 of claim, the Court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the Claim and
11 shall allow the Claim except to the extent that the Claim is “unenforceable against the
12 debtor . . . under any . . . applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is
13 contingent or unmatured.” 11 U.S.C. § 502(b). A properly filed proof of claim is
14 presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof
15 of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of
16 persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. *See Ashford v. Consolidated*
17 *Pioneer Mortg. (In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.)*, 178 B.R. 222, 226 (9th Cir. B.A.P.
18 1995), *aff'd*, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996).

19 **IV. THE OBJECTION**

20 The DVL Loan appears to have been a legitimate, arms-length transaction. In
21 addition, the Direct Lenders took a known risk by investing in a promissory note secured
22 by a first position lien on real property.

23 USACM is not liable for the Borrower's default or any decrease in the value of the
24 collateral.

25 The Direct Lenders fail to state a claim because USACM does not appear to have
26 breached the loan servicing agreements with respect to collection of the DVL Loan.

1 USACM was under no duty to foreclose on the collateral securing the DVL Loan or take
2 any other action.

3 This objection will not affect the Direct Lenders' right to be repaid on the DVL
4 Loan by the Borrower, to recover from the sale of any collateral that secured the DVL
5 Loan or collect on the guaranty that supported the loan.

6 **V. CONCLUSION**

7 The USACM Trust respectfully requests that the Court disallow the claims against
8 USACM listed in **Exhibit A** to the extent those claims are based upon an investment in the
9 DVL Loan. This objection concerns only claims based upon an investment in the DVL
10 Loan and not any other claims of any of the Direct Lenders. The USACM Trust also
11 requests such other and further relief as is just and proper.

12 Dated: June 23, 2011.

13 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

14 By s/John Hinderaker (AZ 18024)
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18 Copy of the foregoing and pertinent
19 portion of Exhibits mailed by first
20 class postage prepaid U.S. Mail on
June 23, 2011 to all parties listed on
Exhibit A attached.

21 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP

22 s/ Matt Burns
23 Matt Burns